

Circular 23/2015

15<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

To: GLAS Advisors

**Re: Fertiliser Restrictions for Chough, Corncrake, Hen Harrier, Twite A and Breeding Waders (Amendment to Circular 21/2015)**

The restrictions placed on lands identified as habitat for the above bird species, may create difficulties for those who wish to save fodder, leading to animal welfare issues. GLAS applicants now have options, which are outlined below.

**Where land is identified as farmland bird habitat on less than 19ha of the holding:**

The bird action is mandatory in order to apply for GLAS. However, 20% of the land area may be removed from the GLAS contract by means of choosing that option from the drop-down menu on the GLAS online system. These may be full or split parcels and the facility to split parcels has been provided in the online system. These areas will NOT receive payment for the relevant bird action and no other GLAS action may be selected on them.

**Where land is identified as farmland bird habitat on more than 19ha of the holding:**

The applicant has two options where more than 19ha are identified:

**Option 1:** Where the applicant has already delivered 19ha of the Farmland Birds listed above, the GLAS advisor can set out in Form 1A (sample attached), those LPIS parcels where s/he does not wish to be bound by the fertiliser restriction imposed within the GLAS specification. This form must be uploaded on the online system at the time of submitting the GLAS application. **These parcels must still be chosen as part of the GLAS contract.**

**Option 2:** 20% of the land area may be removed from the GLAS contract by means of choosing that option from the drop-down menu on the GLAS online system (these parcels cannot be the same parcels as listed for Option 1). In exceptional cases, **where the GLAS applicant has already committed 19 ha to the full GLAS specification**, applicants may apply to remove more than 20% of the entire area from the GLAS specification by choosing the >20% option from the drop-down menu on the GLAS online system. The GLAS Advisor must then complete the appropriate section of Form 1A clearly justifying why removal of more than 20% is required and the Department will consider the merits of the case before any approval issues to the applicant. Form 1A must be uploaded on the online system at the time of submitting the GLAS application. These areas will NOT receive payment for the relevant bird action and **no other** GLAS action may be selected on them.

GLAS scheme Terms and Conditions and Specification should be consulted for further information. These documents may be found on the Department's website at

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/glas/> along with Frequently Asked Questions.

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**Appendix 18: Form 1A for Farmland Birds**

**Form 1A**

**Adjustments to Conservation of Farmland Bird Actions for Twite A, Chough, Corncrake, Hen Harrier and Breeding Waders (for GLAS participants with Total<sup>1</sup> Farmland Bird Reference Areas in excess of 19 ha only).**

**(1) Identification of Full or Split LPIS Parcels where the fertiliser restriction outlined within the GLAS Specification will not apply.**

LPIS Parcel Number or Plot Number	LPIS Parcel Number or Plot Number

<sup>1</sup> Total is the sum of all farmland bird action(s) listed above. e.g. 10ha reference area Twite A + 10ha reference area Hen Harrier = 20ha total.

**1. Where the GLAS applicant has more than 19 ha reference area of Farmland Bird Action(s) AND wishes to remove MORE than 20% of the Area completely from the GLAS contract, the GLAS Advisor must complete the justification below.**

The GLAS applicant seeks permission to remove a total of \_\_\_\_\_ hectares reference area amounting to \_\_\_\_\_% of the total identified area from his/her GLAS contract. The full/split LPIS parcels to be removed are identified on the GLAS online system.

The justification for this is as follows:

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Please indicate the approximate percentage of the holding normally cut for fodder - \_\_\_\_\_%

Signature of GLAS Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Form 1A must be completed in full and submitted at the time of lodging the GLAS application. Each GLAS applicant seeking to remove more than 20% of the total Farmland Bird Area identified on the GLAS online system will be examined on a case by case basis to ensure that the increased percentage is warranted.**

**However, please note where the LPIS parcels or Plots are designated Natura, you must continue to comply with the conditions of the designation.**